

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2001

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: LARRY DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

RE: COURSE OFFERINGS CLARIFICATION

The purpose of this memorandum is to correct, update, and clarify some language in a November 9, 2000 memo to the education community that was issued following action by the State Board of Education in October 2000 to adopt new high school graduation requirements.

A particular sentence in the November 9<sup>th</sup> memo has created a lot of unintentional confusion and led to differing interpretations of the kinds of courses that can be taken to meet the occupational education requirement in particular. The new set of state minimum graduation requirements, effective for students who begin the ninth grade in the Fall 2004, are:

English (reading, writing, communications)	3.0 credits
Math	2.0 credits
Science	2.0 credits
Social Studies	2.5 credits
Health and Fitness	2.0 credits
Art	1.0 credit
Occupational Education	1.0 credit
Electives	5.5 credits
Culminating Project	0.0 credits
High School+ Education Plan	0.0 credits

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.0 credits</b>
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Each subject category is "stand-alone" in the sense that some minimum credits must be earned in each category and cannot be directly substituted with credit(s) taken in another category. Example: It is no longer possible to meet the Art requirement by taking a credit in English.

It is VERY IMPORTANT to remember the provisions of the following State Board of Education rule, **WAC 180-51-025 - Local school district application of state requirements:**

"The content of courses and the determination of which courses satisfy particular subject area requirements and whether a particular course may satisfy more than one subject area requirement shall be determined locally in accordance with written policies adopted by boards of directors of districts: *Provided, That* if a foreign language graduation requirement is established, credits earned in American sign language shall count toward the completion of the requirement."

In adopting the new minimum graduation requirements there was no intent by the State Board to change local flexibility and authority granted by WAC 180-51-025. It is a matter of local determination how to apply this rule to every subject matter category reflected in the graduation requirements: English (reading, writing, communications), math, science, social studies, health and fitness, art, occupational education, and electives.

Hopefully, this memorandum clears up any confusion generated by the November 9, 2000 memo. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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